9/5/84 S3320-2 A

LOUISIANA

JOB SERVICE

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Dudley J. Patin, Jr., Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 44094

JULY 1984

RELEASE DATE:
August 27, 1984

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY JULY 1984 Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	REVISED JUNE 1984 Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	REVISED JULY 1983 Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,953.2	1,771.3	181.9	9.3	1,965.3	1,780.1	185.2	9.4	1,934.2	1,700.3	233.9	12.1
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	78.1	70.9	7.2	9.2	78.8	71.5	7.3	9.3	77.7	68.7	9.0	11.6
Baton Rouge 2/	250.5	230.0	20.5	8.2	249.7	229.1	20.6	8.3	241.6	216.4	25.2	10.4
Lafayette 3/	98.4	92.6	5.8	5.9	98.5	92.4	6.1	6.1	97.1	88.6	8.5	8.8
Lake Charles 4/	76.5	66.2	10.3	13.5	76.9	66.4	10.5	13.7	79.3	67.9	11.4	14.4
Monroe 5/	60.8	55.1	5.7	9.3	61.1	55.4	5.7	9.3	60.9	54.3	6.6	10.9
New Orleans 6/	541.0	494.4	46.6	8.6	545.4	498.3	47.1	8.6	537.5	481.4	56.1	10.5
Shreveport 7/	171.9	159.0	12.9	7.5	176.1	162.9	13.2	7.5	171.9	152.3	19.6	11.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana was estimated at 1,573,400 for July, a decrease of 7,600 from June's level, but 7,500 above the comparable period a year ago. Louisiana's nonagricultural employment decline for July was centered in the services and government segments of nonmanufacturing. A drop in nondurable goods payrolls resulted in lower employment for the state's manufacturing industries.

1/ Includes Avoyelles, Grant, & Rapides parishes. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Lafayette Parish only. 4/ Calcasieu Parish only. 5/ Ouachita Parish only. 6/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany parishes. 7/ Includes Bossier, Caddo, and Webster parishes.

This public document was published at a total cost of $1,079.79. 2,900 copies of this public document were published in this 1st printing at a cost of $1,079.79. The total cost of all printing of this document, including reprints, is $1,079.79. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Labor, Office of Employment Security, Research and Statistics Unit, P.O. Box 44094, Baton Rouge, La. 70804. Its purpose is to disseminate information pertaining to labor market developments and employment trends under the authority of Part 602.6, Title 20, Chap. V. of the Code of Federal Regulations. It was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

Durable goods employment for July, at 83,600, was 200 above last month and 3,500 higher than the same month a year ago. A drop in household furniture payrolls primarily accounted for the decrease in furniture and fixtures employment. More need for concrete, gypsum and plaster products accounted for the increase in stone, clay and glass products employment. Primary metal industries employment fell as a result of less business for firms producing primary nonferrous metals. Less business for establishments that manufacture engines and turbines contributed to the downturn in machinery, except electrical, payrolls. Production of communication equipment rose in July, resulting in higher employment for the electric and electronic equipment industry. Transportation equipment employment edged up for the current month.

Nondurable goods employment, at 98,300, was 300 lower than last month and 1,500 below the July a year ago figure. Food and kindred products employment declined in July due mostly to less activity in sugar refining and less business for certain miscellaneous food processors. Employment in the apparel and other textile products industry was down largely as a result of cutbacks by some miscellaneous apparel and accessories manufacturers. More business for many segments of the paper and allied products industry resulted in higher employment for the current month. Increased demand for industrial inorganic chemicals accounted for the upturn in chemicals and allied products employment. A temporary shutdown by a firm in the leather products industry was largely responsible for the lower employment in other nondurable goods.

Estimated employment in nonmanufacturing industries, at 1,391,500 for the current month, was 7,500 below last month's level but 5,500 higher than July a year ago. Mining employment was down as a result of a slowdown in the exploration for oil and gas. An upturn in general building construction contributed most to the higher construction payrolls in July. Increased port activity and more business for the trucking and warehousing industry were largely responsible for the higher transportation and public utilities employment. Trade employment moved up due mostly to more business in the food stores segment of retail trade. Banking was among the areas contributing to the increase in finance, insurance and real estate employment. Less business for hotels and other lodging places was instrumental in the lower payrolls for services this month. Also significant were employment losses in commercial sports, hospitals, educational services and social services. Government employment for July was lower primarily as a result of seasonal decreases in state and local education.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 126,400 production workers in manufacturing decreased from $418.84 in June to $414.10 in July, a decrease of $4.74, but an increase of $14.51 above the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were eight cents higher in July than last month and $0.16 more than July of last year. Weekly hours averaged 41.0 for the current month, down by 0.8 hours from June's figure.

Total unemployment in Louisiana was estimated at 181,900 for July, a decrease of 3,300 below the June level of 185,200. The unemployment rate for July was 9.3 percent compared to 9.4 percent last month and 12.1 percent in July of last year. The comparable national unemployment rate for July was 7.5 percent compared to 7.4 percent in June and 9.4 percent in July a year ago. Louisiana's civilian labor force moved from 1,965,300 in June to 1,953,200 in July, a decrease of 12,100. Total employment for the state went from 1,780,100 in June to 1,771,300 in July, a decrease of 8,800.

The state's unemployment rate is expected to show little change next month. The government sector of nonmanufacturing will probably experience an employment decline next month. Manufacturing employment may fall below the present level next month.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	July 1984*	June 1984**	July 1983**	Net Change from June 1984	Net Change from July 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	1,573.4	1,581.0	1,565.9	- 7.6	+ 7.5
MINING AND QUARRYING	78.1	78.6	79.2	- 0.5	- 1.1
Oil and Gas Extraction	75.0	75.5	76.0	- 0.5	- 1.0
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.1	3.1	3.2	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	114.3	114.2	116.8	+ 0.1	- 2.5
MANUFACTURING	181.9	182.0	179.9	- 0.1	+ 2.0
Durable Goods	83.6	83.4	80.1	+ 0.2	+ 3.5
Lumber and Wood Products	13.6	13.6	13.2	0	+ 0.4
Furniture and Fixtures	0.6	0.7	0.8	- 0.1	- 0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	7.9	7.8	7.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Primary Metal Industries	3.4	3.6	3.5	- 0.2	- 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	13.4	13.4	13.4	0	0
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.8	9.9	9.5	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Electric & Electronic Equipment	11.1	10.7	8.2	+ 0.4	+ 2.9
Transportation Equipment	21.3	21.2	21.8	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.5	2.5	2.0	0	+ 0.5
Nondurable Goods	98.3	98.6	99.8	- 0.3	- 1.5
Food & Kindred Products	22.2	22.6	23.4	- 0.4	- 1.2
Apparel & Other Textile Products	9.1	9.3	8.4	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Paper & Allied Products	11.8	11.5	11.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Printing & Publishing	9.8	9.8	9.7	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals & Allied Products	29.2	29.1	30.1	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.4	12.4	12.9	0	- 0.5
Petroleum Refining	11.7	11.7	12.2	0	- 0.5
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	3.8	3.9	3.7	- 0.1	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	117.0	116.7	118.9	+ 0.3	- 1.9
Railroad Transportation	7.6	7.6	7.1	0	+ 0.5
Transportation, ex. Railroads	67.9	67.2	69.3	+ 0.7	- 1.4
Communications & Public Utilities	41.5	41.9	42.5	- 0.4	- 1.0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	376.8	376.7	371.8	+ 0.1	+ 5.0
Wholesale Trade	95.4	95.4	95.3	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	281.4	281.3	276.5	+ 0.1	+ 4.9
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	56.9	57.2	58.5	- 0.3	- 1.6
Food Stores	52.5	51.6	51.0	+ 0.9	+ 1.5
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	31.2	30.9	30.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Eating & Drinking Places	88.5	89.0	84.1	- 0.5	+ 4.4
Other Retail Trade	52.3	52.6	52.2	- 0.3	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	84.2	84.0	83.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Banking	28.2	28.1	28.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
SERVICES	310.2	312.1	304.0	- 1.9	+ 6.2
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.6	23.4	21.2	- 0.8	+ 1.4
Other Services	287.6	288.7	282.8	- 1.1	+ 4.8
GOVERNMENT	310.9	316.7	311.6	- 5.8	- 0.7
Federal	34.6	34.6	34.4	0	+ 0.2
State and Local	276.3	282.1	277.2	- 5.8	- 0.9
State	94.6	95.5	96.0	- 0.9	- 1.4
Local	181.7	186.6	181.2	- 4.9	+ 0.5

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$414.10	$418.84	$399.59	41.0	41.8	40.2	$10.10	$10.02	$9.94
Durable Goods	386.87	392.60	365.92	41.2	41.9	40.3	9.39	9.37	9.08
Lumber & Wood Products	324.10	325.28	277.98	38.4	38.0	40.7	8.44	8.56	6.83
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	381.24	387.05	370.80	40.3	42.3	40.0	9.46	9.15	9.27
Fabricated Metal Products	415.42	375.76	390.62	45.5	44.0	41.6	9.13	8.54	9.39
Machinery, ex. Electrical	408.62	393.23	383.94	41.4	41.7	40.5	9.87	9.43	9.48
Electric & Electronic Equip.	365.34	436.74	396.79	39.2	43.5	39.6	9.32	10.04	10.02
Transportation Equipment	447.20	456.88	392.85	41.6	42.5	40.5	10.75	10.75	9.70
Nondurable Goods	439.82	444.33	433.60	40.8	41.8	40.0	10.78	10.63	10.84
Food & Kindred Products	264.75	274.40	238.70	37.5	40.0	34.1	7.06	6.86	7.00
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	180.07	179.58	161.45	35.8	36.5	37.9	5.03	4.92	4.26
Paper & Allied Products	446.42	520.93	565.45	40.4	44.6	45.2	11.05	11.68	12.51
Printing & Publishing	313.79	299.40	318.05	37.4	37.1	36.6	8.39	8.07	8.69
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	643.97	635.21	611.61	43.6	43.3	42.8	14.77	14.67	14.29
Petroleum & Coal Products	673.48	657.75	662.68	46.9	45.9	48.3	14.36	14.33	13.72
Petroleum Refining	683.80	667.92	678.13	46.9	46.0	48.3	14.58	14.52	14.04
MINING	561.12	554.11	521.44	48.0	48.1	45.7	11.69	11.52	11.41
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	426.92	458.87	462.53	38.6	40.5	39.6	11.06	11.33	11.68
BANKING	234.75	239.27	218.86	37.5	38.1	37.8	6.26	6.28	5.79

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 126,400 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 103,300 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY JULY 1984				REVISED JUNE 1984			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
Crowley (Acadia)	24,375	21,600	2,775	11.4	24,575	21,800	2,775	11.3
Oakdale (Allen)	6,525	5,325	1,200	18.5	6,600	5,350	1,250	18.8
Napoleonville (Assumption)	10,725	9,450	1,275	11.8	10,675	9,425	1,250	11.7
DeRidder (Beauregard)	12,575	11,175	1,400	11.1	12,375	10,975	1,400	11.3
Arcadia (Bienville)	7,400	6,750	650	8.6	7,400	6,750	650	8.8
Columbia (Caldwell)	4,900	4,450	450	9.3	4,900	4,450	450	9.2
Cameron (Cameron)	4,925	4,600	325	6.7	4,975	4,625	350	6.9
Jonesville (Catahoula)	6,450	5,800	650	10.1	6,625	5,925	700	10.5
Homer (Claiborne)	7,575	7,000	575	7.6	7,600	7,000	600	8.0
Ferriday (Concordia)	9,825	8,700	1,125	11.3	9,800	8,600	1,200	12.2
Mansfield (DeSoto)	12,075	10,775	1,300	10.8	12,000	10,750	1,250	10.4
Lake Providence (E.Carroll)	5,350	4,575	775	14.4	5,375	4,600	775	14.4
Clinton (East Feliciana)	8,250	7,525	725	8.7	8,300	7,575	725	8.8
Ville Platte (Evangeline)	14,525	12,675	1,850	12.7	14,675	12,775	1,900	12.9
Winnsboro (Franklin)	8,825	7,675	1,150	13.1	8,950	7,775	1,175	13.1
New Iberia (Iberia)	36,550	32,600	3,950	10.8	36,750	32,675	4,075	11.1
Plaquemine (Iberville)	15,575	13,900	1,675	10.8	15,575	13,900	1,675	10.8
Jonesboro (Jackson)	6,475	5,975	500	7.7	6,475	5,975	500	7.7
Jennings (Jefferson Davis)	13,300	11,600	1,700	12.7	13,575	11,775	1,800	13.3
Thibodaux (Lafourche)	38,975	35,325	3,650	9.3	39,200	35,450	3,750	9.6
Tallulah (LaSalle)	6,325	5,800	525	8.3	6,250	5,725	525	8.4
Ruston (Lincoln)	21,425	20,550	875	4.1	21,475	20,575	900	4.2
Tallulah (Madison)	5,500	4,875	625	11.5	5,650	4,925	725	12.8
Bastrop (Morehouse)	13,150	11,725	1,425	10.9	13,050	11,650	1,400	10.7
Natchitoches (Natchitoches)	17,700	16,325	1,375	7.7	17,725	16,375	1,350	7.6
Pointe-a-la-Hache(Plaqum.)	14,775	13,750	1,025	6.9	14,825	13,800	1,025	6.9
New Roads (Pointe Coupee)	13,650	12,275	1,375	10.1	13,550	12,200	1,350	10.0
Coushatta (Red River)	4,400	4,050	350	7.8	4,450	4,025	425	9.7
Rayville (Richland)	8,400	7,475	925	11.1	8,450	7,500	950	11.3
Many (Sabine)	8,325	7,650	675	8.0	8,350	7,675	675	8.1
Hahnville (St. Charles)	22,700	20,450	2,250	9.9	22,650	20,375	2,275	10.0
Greensburg (St. Helena)	4,550	4,150	400	9.0	4,600	4,225	375	8.2
Convent (St. James)	11,875	10,425	1,450	12.2	11,800	10,325	1,475	12.5
Reserve (St. John)	18,450	16,300	2,150	11.7	18,325	16,250	2,075	11.6
Opelousas (St. Landry)	35,625	30,150	5,475	15.4	36,075	30,400	5,675	15.7
New Iberia-Franklin (St. Martin)	20,050	17,525	2,525	12.6	20,200	17,575	2,625	13.0
Morgan City (St. Mary)	33,075	29,225	3,850	11.7	33,275	29,300	3,975	11.9
Bogalusa (Tangipahoa)	35,650	30,525	5,125	14.4	35,800	30,725	5,075	14.2
St. Joseph (Tensas)	3,150	2,825	325	10.3	3,225	2,900	325	10.4
Houma (Terrebonne)	46,450	42,275	4,175	9.0	46,425	42,075	4,350	9.4
Farmerville (Union)	7,975	7,225	750	9.5	7,950	7,175	775	9.7
Abbeville (Vermilion)	25,750	23,125	2,625	10.2	26,225	23,300	2,925	11.2
Leesville (Vernon)	12,750	11,450	1,300	10.3	12,700	11,375	1,325	10.4
Bogalusa (Washington)	15,025	12,975	2,050	13.6	15,050	12,925	2,125	14.1
Oak Grove (West Carroll)	4,250	3,450	800	18.9	4,475	3,525	950	21.4
Francisville (W.Felic.)	4,000	3,750	250	6.0	3,950	3,700	250	6.1
Winnfield (Winn)	5,850	5,325	525	9.1	5,900	5,350	550	9.2

Note: Labor Market Areas are designated by name of principal Town, but include all of parish in parenthesis.

Above data rounded to nearest 25 except LMA's and Statewide which are rounded to nearest 100. Totals may not add to totals due to rounding. Rates computed from unrounded data.

ALEXANDRIA AREA (1)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	July 1984*	June 1984**	July 1983**	Net Change From June 1984	Net Change From July 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	53.9	53.9	53.6	0	+ 0.3
MANUFACTURING	5.3	5.2	5.2	0	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.6	1.6	1.6	0	0
Nondurable Goods	2.5	2.5	2.3	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	48.6	48.6	48.4	0	+ 0.2
Construction	3.5	3.4	3.6	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Trans., Comm., & Pub. Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	12.7	12.7	12.5	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
Retail Trade	10.0	10.0	9.8	0	+ 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
Other Retail Trade	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Services & Mining	11.6	11.6	11.5	0	+ 0.1
Health Services	5.2	5.2	5.2	0	0
Other Services & Mining	6.4	6.4	6.3	0	+ 0.1
Government	15.6	15.5	15.4	- 0.1	0
Federal	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0
State	5.8	5.8	5.8	0	0
Local	6.8	6.9	6.8	- 0.1	0

(1) Geographic coverage of data now published for this area differs from the standard definition. Data also includes Avoyelles Parish.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The Alexandria area has an estimated nonagricultural employment of 53,900 during July. This employment estimate is the same as last month and 300 more than this month a year ago.

Total employment in manufacturing remained unchanged since the previous month. Since July of last year employment in manufacturing has increased 100 and the gain was in nondurable goods.

Total employment in nonmanufacturing is unchanged since the June estimate of 48,600 and this estimate is 200 more than July of last year. Although the total is unchanged there was a gain in construction, but an offsetting decrease in government. The gains since last year were in retail trade and services with a slight decrease in construction.

During the next thirty days total employment should increase slightly, with the unemployment rate decreasing.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	July 1984*	June 1984**	July 1983**	Net Change From June 1984	Net Change From July 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	210.7	208.7	203.5	+ 2.0	+ 7.2
MANUFACTURING	22.3	22.3	22.4	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	4.5	4.4	3.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.1	1.0	0.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	1.6	0	+ 0.4
Nondurable Goods	17.8	17.9	18.5	- 0.1	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	13.1	13.1	13.8	0	- 0.7
Other Nondurable Goods	1.0	1.1	1.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	188.4	186.4	181.1	+ 2.0	+ 7.3
Mining	0.9	1.0	0.9	- 0.1	0
Construction	21.2	20.5	20.6	+ 0.7	+ 0.6
Transportation and Public Utilities	9.7	9.8	10.2	- 0.1	- 0.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	51.2	51.2	48.1	0	+ 3.1
Wholesale Trade	11.2	11.5	11.2	- 0.3	0
Retail Trade	40.0	39.7	36.9	+ 0.3	+ 3.1
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	12.6	12.5	12.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Services	40.3	40.1	38.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.9
Government	52.5	51.3	50.4	+ 1.2	+ 2.1

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$508.96	$516.47	$488.87	43.8	44.6	42.4	$11.62	$11.58	$11.53
Petro-Chemicals	678.30	670.05	640.46	45.8	45.8	44.6	14.81	14.63	14.36

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,500 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 210,700 during July, was up 2,000 over June's revised estimate of 208,700 and up 7,200 over the total for last July. Manufacturing had no change and nonmanufacturing was up 2,000 during the current period.

Employment in manufacturing at 188,400 during July, was up 2,000 over June's revised estimate. Mining had some slight downward adjustments. Transportation and public utilities were down due to the closing of a department in trucking, local and long distance, and less business in telephone communication (wire or radio). Less business and downward seasonal adjustments moved wholesale trade down; however, this drop was offset by retail trade increases due to continued seasonal increases and additional employment in a new supermarket. Construction was up due to more business in building construction and special trade contractors. Finance, insurance, and real estate were up due to more business in all three segments. Services were up due to increases in veterinary services, health services, membership organizations, and miscellaneous services. Government was up due to increases in state and local government.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 12,500 production workers in all manufacturing industries was $508.96 in July, down $7.51 from June's revised average. Average weekly hours were down 0.8 hours and average hourly earnings were up four cents. Less overtime worked at premium pay contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's was estimated at 250,500 during July, up 800 over June's revised estimate and up 8,900 over July of last year. Unemployment at 20,500 was down 100 during the current period and dropped 4,700 since last July. The current unemployment rate at 8.2 percent is down 0.1 percent from last month and down from the 10.4 percent recorded last July. The statewide unemployment rate was 9.4 percent during July. The local civilian labor force increased 800 during July and 8,900 since last July.

The July 4th weekend opening of Catfish Town, a shopping mall and tourist attraction located in a rejuvenated downtown warehouse district, gave the local economy a tremendous boost by attracting a larger attendance than the New Orleans Worlds Fair during the opening period.

The unemployment rate is expected to continue its seasonal high during the coming month.

The Baton Rouge and Gonzales Job Service Offices served 2,400 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 458 applicants in jobs during July.

The consumer price index for June, 1984 for all urban consumers was 310.7 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 306.2 using base period 1967=100.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	July 1984*	June 1984**	July 1983**	Net Change From June 1984	Net Change From July 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	89.2	88.5	87.4	+ 0.7	+ 1.8
MANUFACTURING	3.8	3.8	3.7	0	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	85.4	84.7	83.7	+ 0.7	+ 1.7
Mining	16.3	16.7	15.5	- 0.4	+ 0.8
Construction	5.3	5.0	5.4	+ 0.3	- 0.1
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	6.8	6.8	6.7	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	24.7	24.0	23.4	+ 0.7	+ 1.3
Wholesale Trade	6.7	6.6	6.7	+ 0.1	0
Retail Trade	18.0	17.4	16.7	+ 0.6	+ 1.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.9	2.9	2.6	0	+ 0.3
Food Stores	2.8	2.6	2.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Other Retail Trade	10.8	10.4	10.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.6
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	3.9	3.8	3.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Services	18.7	18.7	18.8	0	- 0.1
Government	9.7	9.7	10.1	0	- 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette during July stood at 89,200, an increase of 700 from June and 1,800 over the same period of time a year ago. The increase was in the nonmanufacturing segment. The area responsible for the increase was trade.

Manufacturing has remained stable from the previous month and same period of time a year ago.

Mining stood at 16,300, a decrease of 400 from the previous month but an increase of 800 from the same period a year ago.

The wholesale trade has stood at about the same level from a month ago.

Retail trade has increased 600 from the previous month and 1,300 from July of 1983. Two or three new shopping centers are responsible for this increase.

Services and government remained stable with no fluctuation.

Residential construction has decreased but commercial construction has taken up the slack. High interest rates will keep residential construction down.

The oil industry continues its lengthy slowdown. From all indication a recovery will be slow.

Other areas of the economy in the Lafayette area continue to function in a healthy fashion thus stimulating the overall picture.

The unemployment rate should remain stable over the next month but should decline when school starts as summer job seekers give up their search for work in order to go back to school.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	July 1984*	June 1984**	July 1983**	Net Change From June 1984	Net Change From July 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	58.8	58.6	61.9	+ 0.2	- 3.1
MANUFACTURING	9.2	9.2	9.7	0	- 0.5
Durable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.3	0.3	0.2	0	+ 0.1
Other Durable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	8.4	8.4	8.9	0	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Pet Products	7.5	7.5	8.0	0	- 0.5
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	49.6	49.4	52.2	+ 0.2	- 2.6
Mining	2.1	2.2	2.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Construction	4.7	4.5	6.7	+ 0.2	- 2.0
Trans., Comm. & Pub. & Utilities	4.7	4.6	4.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	13.8	13.9	14.3	- 0.1	- 0.5
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.4	3.3	- 0.1	0
Retail Trade	10.5	10.5	11.0	0	- 0.5
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.0	2.0	2.4	0	- 0.4
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	3.3	3.4	3.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	3.0	3.0	2.9	0	+ 0.1
Services	10.7	10.7	10.9	0	- 0.2
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Government	10.6	10.5	10.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

July payroll employment, in the Lake Charles Area, edged upward 200 over the June level. All of the increase occurred in nonmanufacturing establishments. The current payroll employment total of 58,800 falls 3,100 below the July 1983 level. Manufacturing fell by 2,600.

Nonfactory employment climbed 200 above the mid-June level as small declines in some establishment groups were offset by increases in others. In the 2,600 loss from a year ago, Construction suffered the most with a decline of 2,000 jobs, and Trade followed with a loss of 500 jobs, while Mining fell by 200.

The outlook is for a continued downturn in unemployment as summer job seekers continue to abandon their search for work in preparation for return to school. Little change is expected in employment.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	July 1984*	June 1984**	July 1983**	Net Change From June 1984	Net Change From July 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	506.8	508.6	505.9	- 1.8	+ 0.9
MANUFACTURING	39.9	40.0	41.1	- 0.1	- 1.2
Durable Goods	23.4	23.5	24.2	- 0.1	- 0.8
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	2.7	2.6	2.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	3.2	3.4	3.4	- 0.2	- 0.2
Machinery, Except Electrical	2.8	2.9	2.8	- 0.1	0
Transportation Equipment	13.1	13.0	13.7	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	8.1	8.1	9.0	0	- 0.9
Other Durable Goods	1.1	1.1	1.4	0	- 0.3
Nondurable Goods	16.5	16.5	16.9	0	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	7.0	7.1	7.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.9	1.8	1.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	1.1	1.0	1.1	+ 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	3.1	3.2	3.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	1.7	1.7	1.8	0	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	466.9	468.6	464.8	- 1.7	+ 2.1
Mining	18.5	18.4	18.5	+ 0.1	0
Construction	28.6	28.5	31.1	+ 0.1	- 2.5
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	46.0	46.0	47.7	0	- 1.7
Railroad Transportation	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
Water Transportation	15.8	15.5	16.4	+ 0.3	- 0.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	131.8	132.2	129.5	- 0.4	+ 2.3
Wholesale Trade	34.7	34.9	34.9	- 0.2	- 0.2
Retail Trade	97.1	97.3	94.6	- 0.2	+ 2.5
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	31.5	31.7	32.1	- 0.2	- 0.6
Services	124.6	124.5	122.0	+ 0.1	+ 2.6
Government	85.9	87.3	83.9	- 1.4	+ 2.0
Federal	15.1	15.1	14.8	0	+ 0.3
State	19.7	19.8	20.0	- 0 1	- 0.3
Local	51.1	52.4	49.1	- 1 3	+ 2.0

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**
All MANUFACTURING	$383.39	$392.70	$347.90	40.7	42.0	38.4	$9.42	$9.35	$9.06
Durable Goods	413.14	421.31	369.87	42.2	43.3	39.9	9.79	9.73	9.27
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	398.64	402.23	384.30	44.0	46.5	42.0	9.06	8.65	9.15
Fabricated Metal Products	459.30	434.73	406.96	49.6	47.1	40.9	9.26	9.23	9.95
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	409.46	427.61	356.59	40.5	41.8	39.1	10.11	10.23	9.12
Nondurable Goods	342.88	352.15	313.92	38.7	40.2	36.0	8.86	8.76	8.72
Food & Kindred Products	280.52	287.56	259.35	38.8	39.5	35.0	7.23	7.28	7.41
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	147.74	170.80	118.53	31.3	35.0	28.7	4.72	4.88	4.13
Paper & Allied Products	354.88	392.52	338.23	42.5	48.4	40.8	8.35	8.11	8.29
Printing & Publishing	338.45	364.62	294.14	38.2	41.2	38.4	8.86	8.85	7.66
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	576.22	583.05	568.42	41.1	40.1	38.2	14.02	14.54	14.88

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 26,300 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the New Orleans Labor Market Area in July moved down to 506,800, a level 1,800 below June. Normal seasonal changes in nonmanufacturing in government accounted for most of the overall decrease. Manufacturing showed only scattered small changes.

Manufacturing employment totaled 39,900 in July, 100 less than last month. Nondurable goods held steady with minor fluctuations offsetting each other. In the durable goods sector, increases in transportation equipment and stone, clay and glass products were not large enough to overcome layoffs in fabricated metal products and machinery. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment is down 1,200.

Nonmanufacturing was lowered by a variety of decreases, mostly seasonal in nature. Local government reflected further summer downward adjustments by the public schools~~. State~~ government tapered off to the lowest level this year. Both retail trade and wholesale trade showed decreases. Banking effected layoffs. More favorably services edged up, with gains in personal services, legal services, and miscellaneous services offsetting a summer downturn in private educational services and cutbacks in amusement services. Construction gained slightly in the best season of the year for outside work. Mining pushed up. Transportation held steady as an upturn in water transportation was balanced by a downturn in motor freight transportation.

Estimated unemployment in July decreased to 46,600, down 500 from June. A reduction in the number of entrants and reentrants into the labor force was mostly responsible. Current joblessness accounts for 8.6 percent of the labor force compared to 8.6 percent in June and 10.5 percent in July of last year. The unemployment rate of 8.6 percent in July was lower than the state rate of 9.3 percent, but higher than the comparable national rate of 7.5 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 13,133. Approximately 44.0 percent of the claimants were nonwhite; about 33.0 percent were female.

Area production workers earned an average $383.39 a week in July, down $9.31 from last month. The drop of one hour and 18 minutes in average weekly hours caused the decrease. Average hourly earnings increased slightly. Factory workers earned an average $35.49 a week more than this time last year.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to show an overall increase. Both public and private educational services will pull back up from the mid-summer low as the autumn school term begins. Construction and mining will probably add small numbers of workers. Trade will benefit from back-to-school shopping. Unemployment is predicted to decrease as many persons who recently entered and reentered the labor force will withdraw to return to school.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	July 1984*	June 1984**	July 1983**	Net Change From June 1984	Net Change From July 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	149.9	152.6	146.7	- 2.7	+ 3.2
MANUFACTURING	26.5	26.1	23.6	+ 0.4	+ 2.9
Durable Goods	20.7	20.3	17.8	+ 0.4	+ 2.9
Lumber and Wood Products	1.6	1.5	1.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Metals and Machinery	13.0	12.7	11.0	+ 0.3	+ 2.0
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.9	3.9	3.7	0	+ 0.2
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	9.1	8.8	7.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.8
Other Durable Goods	6.1	6.1	5.3	0	+ 0.8
Nondurable Good	5.8	5.8	5.8	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.5	1.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.0	1.1	1.0	- 0.1	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	123.4	126.5	123.1	- 3.1	+ 0.3
Mining	6.6	6.8	5.9	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Construction	9.6	9.9	9.3	- 0.3	+ 0.3
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	9.4	9.2	9.4	+ 0.2	0
Wholesale and Retail Trade	34.5	34.2	34.5	+ 0.3	0
Wholesale Trade	9.3	9.3	9.1	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	25.2	24.9	25.4	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	8.1	8.2	8.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Services	32.5	32.3	31.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
Government	22.7	25.9	24.3	- 3.2	- 1.6

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**	July '84*	June '84**	July '83**
All MANUFACTURING	$378.90	$397.58	$389.42	39.8	41.2	39.9	$9.52	$9.65	$9.76
Lumber and Wood Products	225.42	226.98	229.35	39.0	38.8	41.7	5.78	5.85	5.50
Metals and Machinery	346.24	408.24	387.28	38.6	43.2	40.3	8.97	9.45	9.61
Food and Kindred Products	270.93	227.43	199.71	41.3	36.1	31.5	6.56	6.30	6.34
Printing and Publishing	248.93	274.89	236.32	31.0	33.0	28.0	8.03	8.33	8.44
Petroleum and Coal Products	578.40	560.60	551.26	48.2	46.6	47.4	12.00	12.03	11.63

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 20,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The total nonagricultural wage and salary employment for the Shreveport area is estimated at 149,900, down from the revised June estimate of 152,600. This decrease from June to July occurred in the nonmanufacturing sector and reflects the seasonal employment decline in educational services with schools closing for the summer.

Total manufacturing employment increased to 26,500, up from 26,100 last month and 2,900 more than one year ago. Durable goods employment shows a gain of 400 over the past month. Contributing most to this gain was a stronger demand for electrical machinery and equipment with a slight increased demand for lumber and wood products.

The total nonmanufacturing employment for this area is estimated at 123,400, compared with the revised June estimate of 126,500 and the year ago estimate of 123,100. During the past month, employment in mining activities dropped from 6,800 to 6,600. Reduced construction activity resulted in an employment decline of 300. Finance, insurance and real estate had a loss of 100. The most significant employment loss was in government with a decline of 3,200 from the previous month as employment in local education dropped during the summer school break from 10,100 to 6,700.

There are 20,600 production workers in this area with average weekly earnings of $378.90. Average weekly hours were 39.8, down from the average weekly hours of 41.2 for the previous month. The average hourly earnings dropped from $9.65 last month to $9.52 for July.

The Shreveport area has a civilian labor force of 171,900 consisting of 159,000 employed and 12,900 unemployed. The unemployment rate is 7.5 percent. The unemployment rate for July, 1983 was 11.4 percent.

Employment should remain near the present level through August. Total unemployment is expected to continue to decline with the unemployment rate returning to near the 7.0 percent range in September.